

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-11 FRB-03 CU-05 OMB-01

CIEP-02 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 STR-08

COME-00 AEC-11 AECE-00 NEA-14 AF-10 EA-11 /214 W

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P R 171318Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0894

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 17367

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, FR

SUBJECT: SAUVAGNARGUES VISIT TO THE USSR

REF: MOSCOW 10974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR EAST EUROPE OMNES, VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES TO USSR WENT SMOOTHLY AND PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. SOVIETS ASKED FOR AND WERE GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT THE NEW GISCARD GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE COOPERATIVE POLICIES OF ITS PREDECESSOR. CSCE DOMINATED MULTILATERAL ASPECTS OF THE TALK, WITH SOVIETS ADAMANT
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ON BASKET III ISSUES. SOVIETS WERE PESSIMISTIC ON

MIDDLE EAST. END SUMMARY.

2. OMNES SAID AMBASSADOR VIMONT WOULD BE GIVING FULL BRIEFING IN MOSCOW AND THUS ELECTED ONLY TO TOUCH ON HIGH POINTS OF SAUVAGNARGUES VISIT. HE SAID IT HAD BEEN PRECEDED BY BREZHNEV LETTER TO GISCARD IN JUNE EXPRESSING HOPE THAT FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS WOULD CONTINUE IN SAME COOPERATIVE SPIRIT AS IN PAST. SAUVAGNARGUES BROUGHT REPLY WITH HIM WHICH WAS ONE OF REASSURANCE TO BREZHNEV. ON BILATERAL SIDE, FRENCH AND SOVIETS REAFFIRMED VALIDITY OF PROTOCOL ON CONSULTATIONS AND EXPRESSED COMMON DESIRE TO BROADEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

3. CSCE DOMINATED MULTILATERAL PORTION OF TALKS. ON BASKET I, SOVIETS REITERATED THAT PRINCIPLE ON INVIO- ABILITY OF FRONTIERS MUST BE KEPT CRYSTAL CLEAR AND SEPARATE FROM PROVISION ON PEACEFUL CHANGE. OMNES SAID THAT SOVIETS SEEMED TO ACCEPT PRINCIPLE OF INCLUDING PROVISION ON SAFEGUARDING ALLIED RIGHTS IN BERLIN, AND ADDED THAT VIMONT WOULD HAVE MORE SPECIFICS ON THIS IN MOSCOW. ON BASKET III, SOVIETS TOOK AN EXTREMELY HARD LINE AS NOTED REFTEL. FRENCH REPLIED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY AT MINIMUM TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON FINAL RECOM- MENDATIONS OF HELSINKI CONSULTATIONS AND SOVIETS SHOULD AT LEAST EXPRESS INTENTION TO DO CERTAIN THINGS IN HUMANITARIAN AREA. THEY COULD THEN DECIDE SUBSEQUENTLY FOR THEMSELVES WHETHER OR NOT TO CARRY THEM OUT. HOW- EVER, SOVIETS INSISTED ON RIDICULING BASKET III ISSUES BY BLOWING WESTERN PROPOSALS OUT OF PROPORTION AND SEEMED TO HAVE CLOSED MINDS ON THE ENTIRE MATTER. UNEXPECTEDLY, SOVIETS DID NOT RAISE POSSIBILITY OF THIRD- STAGE SUMMIT. FRENCH FELT THAT SOVIETS WANTED TO AVOID CERTAIN FRENCH COUNTER-THRUST AND AVOID BEING CAST IN ROLE OF DEMANDEUR.

4. ON OTHER EUROPEAN ISSUES, FRANCE OUTLINED ITS EC POLICIES. SOVIETS REPLIED THAT THEY WELCOMED DIALOGUE WITH EC, BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC INITIATIVES. SOVIETS ADDED THAT THEY DID NOT OBJECT TO DEVELOPMENT OF EC, AS LONG AS IT WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERESTS. FRENCH TOOK THIS AS INCLUDING SECURITY AS WELL AS ECONOMIC INTERESTS, BUT NO CONCRETE MENTION WAS MADE OF POSSIBLE EC MILITARY COOPERATION. SAUVAGNARGUES NOTED THAT FRANCE INTENDED TO CONSULT WITH ITS ALLIES ON WIDE VARIETY OF MATTERS, INCLUDING DETENTE ISSUES, BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT TIE ITS HANDS OR SACRIFICE ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION.

5. SOVIETS REVIEWED SUMMIT-III IN PERFUNCTORY TERMS, MAKING POINT, HOWEVER, THAT THEY DID NOT SEEK CONDOMINIUM AND REFERRING TO ASSURANCES MADE BY BREZHNEV TO POMPIDOU ON THIS AT RAMBUILLET A YEAR AGO. GROMYKO DID SAY BRIEFLY THAT SOVIETS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED GREATER PROGRESS ON SOME ISSUES SUCH AS COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN. HE ALSO NOTED THAT QUESTION OF DE-NUCLEARIZATION OF MEDITERRANEAN HAD ARISEN.

6. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS, OMNES SAID SOVIETS HAD

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 17367

SEEMED RATHER PESSIMISTIC ON PROSPECTS FOR THE MIDDLE

EAST. HE ECHOED REMARKS NOTED REFTEL ON SOVIET CAUTION REGARDING PALESTINIANS.

7. ON CHINA, OMNES SAID THE SOVIETS DID NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY WORRIED AND TOLD THE FRENCH THAT THE BORDER TALKS WERE PROCEEDING NORMALLY.

8. COMMENT. WHILE IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT NEITHER THE FRENCH NOR THE SOVIETS ARE SEEKING TO REVIVE WHAT USED TO BE A RATHER SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, IT IS EQUALLY EVIDENT THAT BOTH SEE ADVANTAGES IN MAINTAINING AT LEAST A SEMBLANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS. THE FRENCH SEEM TO HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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WANTED TO STRESS THAT THEIR FOREIGN POLICY UNDER GISCARD WILL BE ONE OF REALISM AND BALANCE, AND TO REASSURE THE SOVIETS THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN ORIENTATION. WHILE THE NEW GISCARD GOVERNMENT IS UNDER INTERNAL CONSTRAINTS TO MAINTAIN ITS RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW ON AN EVEN KEEL, ITS SUSPICIONS OF SOVIET MOTIVES SEEM PERHAPS EVEN MORE PRONOUNCED THAN THOSE OF ITS PREDECESSOR. IN SUM, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE FUTURE WILL SEE A GRADUAL EVOLUTION IN FRENCH DETENTE POLICY FROM ONE OF CLOSE POLITICAL CONSULTATION TO MORE STRESS ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS ALONG THE LINES FORESHADOWED BY THE RECENT MEETING OF THE GRANDE COMMISSION IN PARIS.
IRWIN

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